

[August 15, 1881.

MONTHLY NOTES
OF THE
Library Association
of the United Kingdom.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of the Association will be held at Gray's Inn Hall, on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and probably the 16th, September, under the presidency of Mr. J. A. RUSSELL, Q.C., Master of Gray's Inn Library.

The arrangements for the meeting are still in progress, and include visits to Stationers' Hall, where the Registers and plate will be open to the inspection of Members, to the Libraries and Halls of the Inns of Court, and to the Cathedral Library of St. Paul's.

Mr. Welch has intimated to the Council his intention not to offer himself for re-election as Secretary at the Annual Meeting, but we believe that he will, as a private member, continue to take an active part in the work of the Association.

The Treasurer requests that those members who have not paid their subscriptions for the present year will do so at once, that the amount may be duly entered in the forthcoming balance sheet. Post-Office Orders to be made payable to Mr. R. Harrison, of the London Library, at the St. James's Street Post Office, S.W.

The following circular, issued by direction of the Council, has been sent to each member:—

LONDON, 8th July, 1881.

DEAR SIR.—The Library Association, which has met in Oxford, Manchester, and Edinburgh since it was founded in London in 1877, will hold its Fourth Annual Meeting in London on the 13th, 14th, 15th and (probably) the 16th of September next. The sittings will be held in the Hall of Gray's Inn, which, together with the Pension Room and Library, has been very kindly placed at our disposal by the Treasurer and Benchers of the Honourable Society.

Meeting in an Inn of Court, it will be natural for us to devote some special attention to legal libraries; and it is hoped that our members may have an opportunity of inspecting the libraries of the Inner and Middle Temple, of Lincoln's Inn, and of the Incorporated Law Society. The whole question of legislation for Free Public Libraries will doubtless occupy a good deal of our time and attention. The Cataloguing Rules, which were adjourned from the Edinburgh Meeting, may be finally settled; and a Report on the Training of

Library Assistants is also to be expected. The results of the inquiry directed by the Edinburgh Meeting into the subject of Binding will probably be laid before this Meeting.

This necessary business may leave less room for papers than the meetings have hitherto had to dispose of, and it is therefore all the more necessary that offers of papers should be received at once.

We shall be much obliged by an early intimation of your intention to be present. If you are not yet a member of the Association, we shall be glad to receive your name. The year's subscription (10s. 6d.), covering this Meeting, should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. ROBERT HARRISON, London Library, 12, St. James's Square, S.W.

We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
ERNEST C. THOMAS,
2, South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C.
CHARLES WELCH,
Corporation Library, Guildhall, E.C.

Members who intend to be present and who have not yet replied to the above circular are requested to do so without delay, as the information will greatly assist in making arrangements for the meeting.

Notice has been received of the following motions to be proposed at the Annual Meeting by Mr. E. B. Nicholson:—

“That this Association is in favour of the general principle of opening public libraries, museums, and other galleries for some part, at least, of every Sunday; though particular local circumstances may sometimes render the present application of this principle useless or undesirable.”

“That the provisions of Sir John Lubbock's Free Libraries Bill, as proposed to be amended by the mover, be discussed and voted on *seriatim* by the meeting.”

Mr. T. W. Newton, Assistant Librarian, Royal School of Mines, and Mr. Daniel Williams, Dorman's Library, St. Leonard's, have lately become members of the Association.

COMMITTEE ON THE TRAINING OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

THE following report has been presented to the Council by the Special Committee, and will be formally presented to the Association for acceptance at the annual meeting:—

REPORT.

At the annual meeting of the Association, held at Edinburgh last year, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

“That it is desirable that the Council of this Association should consider how Library Assistants may best be aided in their training in the general principles of their profession.”

In pursuance of this instruction, Messrs. Garnett, Harrison, Nicholson, Tedder, and the Secretaries, were appointed by you a Committee to consider the subject, and they have now the honour to present their report.

Your Committee are strongly of opinion that the question of the training of Library Assistants may be made an extremely useful feature of the practical work of the Association, and, after due deliberation, have come to the conclusion that this may best be served by providing for the examination of candidates and the granting of certificates of proficiency. This will naturally involve some direction as regards special studies and the choice of books to be read, with, perhaps, the arrangement of courses of lectures on matters connected with Bibliography and Librarianship.

Your Committee therefore recommend the following plan of examination:—

EXAMINATION BEFORE APPOINTMENT.

Preliminary Examination.—This should consist chiefly in the subjects of a sound English education. Special attention should, however, be paid to the subject of English Literature, and proficiency in the elements of one or more Classical or Modern Languages should be specially indorsed upon the certificate, one language to be necessary.

Suggested subjects of this Examination are—

1. Arithmetic.
2. English Grammar and Composition.
3. English History.
4. Geography.
5. English Literature.

Special attention will be given to writing and spelling.

EXAMINATIONS AFTER APPOINTMENT.

A Second-class Certificate will be awarded to any Librarian or Assistant who shall have been engaged in Library work for not less than one year, and shall pass a satisfactory examination in the following subjects:—

1. English Literature, especially of the last hundred years.
2. Some one other European Literature.
3. Principles of the Classification of the Sciences.
4. Elements of Bibliography, including Cataloguing.
5. Library Management.

A cataloguing knowledge of at least two languages besides English to be necessary for a certificate.

A First-class Certificate will be given, after a satisfactory examination, to a Librarian or Assistant of at least two years' experience, for an advanced knowledge of the subjects last mentioned, with the addition of—

6. General Literary History.

A cataloguing knowledge of at least three languages will be necessary for the higher certificate; an acquaintance with any others may be specially indorsed. Proficiency in special subjects offered by the candidate (not more than two being offered) will also be specially indorsed.

It is suggested that for the present the Council should undertake to examine candidates who have not been actually engaged as Library Assistants.

The practical carrying out of this scheme of examination and the appointment of examiners will naturally devolve upon the Council.

In conclusion, the Committee recommend to the Council the desirability of admitting Library Assistants to some of the advantages of membership, at a nominal or considerably reduced subscription.

August 11, 1881.

LIBRARY NOTES.

AYR.—The Committee of the Ayr Public Library are collecting information regarding the working of the Public Libraries Act in places where it has been adopted, with the view of bringing the matter before the inhabitants of this town.

NEWARK.—At a meeting of the Town Council of Newark, on the 4th inst., the Mayor announced that he had received a letter from Mr. Gilstrap, of Firnham Park, Bury St. Edmunds, offering to build and present to Newark, his native town, a free public library. The donor proposes to vest it in the corporation under the Free Libraries Act, and will hand it over furnished and stocked with books, and endowed for the maintenance of a custodian, stipulating only that it shall be so managed as "to give the greatest benefit to the greatest number," and desiring that no political or religious objects of a party or sectarian character should be promoted. By a unanimous vote the gratitude of the Council was expressed in a suitable resolution. A small committee was nominated to confer with Mr. Gilstrap, and it was understood that plans would shortly be ready and the building commenced without delay.

QUERY.

Can anyone inform me if the following sermon has been printed? "One of a thousand, or a testimonial given of that faythfull man who feared God above many; delivered in a funeral sermon preached at St. Buttlop's Without Bishops-gate, London, Sept. 3, 1650, for the religious and charitable Knight Sir Paul Pindar of blessed memory; by Nehemiah Rogers, the then lawfull, though sequestred, Incumbent of that place. Eccles. vii. 27, 28. Eccl. xlii. 14, 15. Post funera virtus." It is a small quarto MS. of fourteen leaves bound up at the end of a volume of obituary sermons belonging to the library of the Religious Tract Society. The preface is signed by the author's son, and it appears from a note in the same hand that its publication was refused by the author's "stationer" on account of two words in the preface, "tyranny" and "rebellion," which were "too hard for his Presbyterian stomach to conceoet."

C. W.

London: TRÜBNER & CO., Ludgate Hill.
Single Numbers, Threepence each. Annual Subscription,
post free, 3s. 6d.